

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Tony Tribuno, Charlie Foster

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Marshall Dix, Therese Lounsbury, Ivy Kirby, Jason Dubac, Christine Richter, Gretchen Havreluk, Joanne Yankura, Matt Murano, Carol Bois, Barker Willard, John Lazelle, Nicki Steel, Scott Moore, Diane & Lenny Chapman, Meg Streeter

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - Jason Dubac is still receiving emails from zoning regarding signage. Business has been closed since early October and the parking lot is not plowed; the signage isn't visible from the roadway. He has been referred to work with the Zoning Administrator (repeatedly).
 - Add the possible purchase of a new truck radio to #8 and under # 3 to also designate a complaint recipient
2. Approve Minutes of December 17 and 19, 2024
 - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of December 17, Foster second; 4-0, Rice abstained
 - Tribuno moved to approve the minutes of December 19, Rice second; all in favor.
3. Action Items
 - Foster moved to appoint John Gannon as liaison to the Ethics Commission and Tom Fitzgerald as complaint recipient, Rice second; all in favor.
4. Trail Committee
 - The Trail Committee submitted a pre-application and were invited to submit a full application. The municipal match may be cash or "in-kind." Fitzgerald moved to authorize Gretchen Havreluk and the Trail Committee to submit the full Recreational Trail Program grant application for additional HT&W project funding on behalf of the Town, Rice second; all in favor.
5. 1% Local Option Tax Request
 - Foster moved to approve the Windham County Arts & Cultural Plan Development's request in the amount of \$1,666.66 for a Municipal Planning Grant Match, Tribuno second; all in favor.
6. Town Meeting Articles
 - The Selectboard to discuss articles for the town meeting warning
 - Shall the Town vote to rescind the operation of licensed cannabis retailers and integrated licensees, except for those licensed cannabis retailers and integrated licensees, operating at the time of any rescission, pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863(a)(2).
 - Shall the Town vote to appoint a moderator for the town meeting.

- It has been discussed before, if the town would choose to opt-out of the cannabis licensing after a period of time. The article does not eliminate the retail businesses currently operating, it keeps new retail businesses from opening; it could be petitioned again.
- The Selectboard will not ask voters to adopt budget articles or all public questions by Australian Ballot, this year.

7. FY26 Budget

- Some numbers from the draft have been finalized, such as Windham Regional Commission assessment, VLCT insurance. The Visiting Nurse amount will be removed, unless a petition is presented. Foster moved to approve the FY26 budget as presented, Rice second; all in favor.

Fitzgerald moved to go into Sewer Commission at 6:58 pm, Rice second; all in favor.

8. Sewer Commission

- The current radio was "used" when they got it; purchasing a new one will bring them in line with Fire and Police. Fitzgerald moved to approve the purchase of a new truck radio from Procom in the amount of \$6445.27 from Wastewater Capital account, Tribuno second; all in favor.
- Wastewater Update
 - John Lazelle updated the Selectboard on the treatment plant's state inspection conducted in September. The state had not visited since 2015. It took 5-hours to conduct the inspection. There were three corrective actions; a sentence needs to be added to one of his reports, Lazelle needs to notify them of certain tests and numbers if they reach a certain level, they hadn't been calibrating their refrigerator thermometer. A certified thermometer has been purchased and new forms have been created to document correctly. The state is concerned that there isn't enough staff to manage the plant; they suggest covering the sludge.
- Preliminary Allocation Extensions
 - The Sewer Commission gave general consent for preliminary allocation extensions to Clifford Leinonen (Vermont Lodge) at 85 West Main Street and Andrew Kotsaftis on Fairview Avenue.

Out of Sewer Commission at 7:20 pm

9. Other Business/Correspondence

10. Selectboard Members Comments

- Mr. Dubac also attended the DRB hearing. There has been no contact between him and the Zoning Administrator in many months.

11. Town Manager's Updates

- Equalization Study; CLA is 91.36%, the COD is 18.23%.
- Principal Potter from TVMHS wrote a thank you to first responders regarding the accident with the school bus in December. Chief Murano sent two letters of accommodation; one for Officer Kirkman in helping someone without heat and

purchasing fire wood for them and one for Officer Levesque for aiding a disable motorist. The Board would like to make sure Officer Kirkman is reimbursed for what he spent.

- Dix has applied for two Better Roads grants; one for \$40,000 and one for \$60,000. He is watching Shearer Hill; the new trial black top may not hold up like we were hoping. He has been faced with many truck repairs, but they are managing.

12. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the real estate purchase would place the town at a substantial disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:36 p.m., to include the Town Manager, to discuss a possible real estate purchase, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 7:52 p.m; no action.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Tony Tribuno

Charlie Foster